United Nations S/2013/179

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 20 March 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 12 March 2013, from the Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Alexander Vershbow, transmitting the quarterly report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-26617 (E) 210313

Please recycle

Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2012 (see enclosure).

I would appreciate you making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Vershbow**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

Introduction

1. The present report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is provided in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 October to 31 December 2012.

2. As at 31 December 2012, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was approximately 5,190.

Security situation and operations

3. The overall security situation in theatre by the end of the reporting period remained calm but still volatile in the northern part of Kosovo. During the reporting period, KFOR contributed towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in Kosovo. KFOR continued to effectively use situational awareness to deploy manoeuvre forces and reserves to rapidly deter violence and manage crisis situations. European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) logistic convoys driving towards the crossing points at Gate 1 and DOG 31 were generally successful during the reporting period, although a few EULEX convoys were blocked in the northern part of Kosovo. With improved freedom of movement, EULEX increased the number of daily convoys to both locations.[1]

4. The overall situation at the Administrative Boundary Line has not changed and remains stable. During the reporting period, the majority of traffic used the crossing points at Gate 1 and DOG 31. However, a limited number of drivers continued to use unauthorized crossing points.

5. On 4 December 2012, the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina resulted in an understanding on the implementation of the already agreed integrated border management system. The parties gave the green light for the implementation of the already agreed system and identified six joint interim crossing points, four of which became operational during the reporting period.[2]

6. During the reporting period, Kosovo Serbs staged a number of peaceful protests, in particular against the implementation of the customs agreement accompanying the integrated border management agreement. On several occasions, access to the crossing points under the agreement in the northern part of Kosovo was temporarily blocked. On 24 November 2012 and on 29 November 2012, hand grenades were found by EULEX at DOG 31. The crossing point was closed for several hours. After clearance, the crossing point was reopened. No damages were reported.

[1] Since September 2012, EULEX has successfully conducted more than 400 convoys in the northern part of Kosovo.

[2] Gates 1 and 3 became operational on 10 December 2012 and DOG 31 and Gate 5, on 31 December 2012.

7. On 31 December 2012, the German and Austrian North Atlantic Treaty Organization Operational Reserve Force battalion ended its deployment in theatre.

Summary

8. During the reporting period, KFOR, in coordination with EULEX and the Kosovo Police, continued to contribute towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and to ensure freedom of movement in Kosovo. While no major incidents were reported, the situation in the northern part of Kosovo remained tense owing to the implementation of the integrated border management system agreed by Belgrade and Pristina in the context of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. KFOR continues to monitor closely the security situation on the ground.